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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044759
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 SCS-06 PA-01
SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PC-10 /058 R

DRAFTED BY:ARA/AND/C:DWCOX
APPROVED BY:ARA:FJMCNEIL
ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY
M/CT:JEKARKASIAN

----------114135 220921Z /15/75
O P 212257Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D COPY(PARA 4 DELETED IN ORIGINAL TRANSMISSION)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, CASC, PINS, CO

SUBJECT: STARR KIDNAPPING: EL TIEMPO STORY

1. AS HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO EMBASSY BY TELEPHONE, AP STORY DATELINED FEBRUARY 18, BASED ON PURPORTED EL TIEMPO ARTICLE, HAS RECEIVED WIDE CIRCULATION IN THE U.S. AP STORY SAYS DOLS 264,000 RANSOM WAS PAID, THAT STARR WAS RELEASED IN LA MACARENA AREA, AND FLOWN OUT OF COLOMBIA BY TWO COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS ON A QUOTE JAPANESE-BUILT TWIN-ENGINE MITSUBISHI EXECUTIVE JET UNQUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT'S PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE STATES THAT AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, THERE IS NO FACTUAL BASIS TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 044759

THIS STORY, BUT THAT EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING UP ON THIS REPORT, JUST AS IT DID IN THE CASE OF PREVIOUS FALSE REPORTS OF STARR'S RELEASE. FYI: MRS. JENSEN HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE AND SAYS THAT SHE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF STARR'S PURPORTED RELEASE.

3. FOR BOGOTA: PLEASE RE-CHECK SOURCES, INCLUDING, A;

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APPROPRIATE, EL TIEMPO, GOC OFFICIALS, AND LOCAL MITSUBISHI REPRESENTATIVES, AND, IF THERE IS ANY JAPANESE ANGLE OTHER THAN THE SUPPOSED AIRCRAFT, THE JAPANESE EMBASSY TO ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN THE BASIS FOR THIS STORY, AND ADVISE ASAP.

4. FOR TOKYO: FYI, PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER RICHARD STARR WAS KIDNAPPED BY MARXIST GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION KNOWN BY ITS SPANISH INITIALS FARC ON FEBRUARY 14, 1978. STARR IS STILL BELIEVED TO BE IN FARC HANDS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRESS COMMENTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: ARA/AND/C:DWCOX
Enclosure: n/a
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Film Number: D780086-0596, D780078-1035
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: STARR KIDNAPPING: EL TIEMPO STORY
TAGS: ASEC, CASC, PINS, CO, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
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